(c) whether the Secretary made any discussions with the Pakistan authorities on Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Pakistan has raised at various times certain conditions and pre-conditions pertaining to the ground situation in J&K and the two non-papers handed over in January 1994 for the holding of talks with India. Government have repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan our readiness for meaningful talks, formal or informal, with or without any agenda and at any time. Setting of conditions or pre-conditions for such talks does not in our view, constitute a positive approach.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mediation of U.N. Secretary-General to Hold Talks Between India and Pakistan

33. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that Pakistan had again urged the UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali to mediate or arronge "proximity" talks in its dispute with India over Kashmir.

(b) if so, whether Government have got any information about Mr. Ghalis response thereto; and

(c) if so, what is Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Government have seen reports to the effect that Pakistan has repeatedly urged the UN Secretary General to play a mediatory role in the Kashmir issue. Government are of the view that all differences between India and Pakistan, including aspects relating to J&K issue, should be resolved peacefully and through bilateral negotiations in accordance with the Simla Agreement and there can be no role of any sort for any third party.

Smuggling of Enriched Plutonium from Erstwhile Soviet Union to Pakistan

34. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what follow up action has been taken by Government on the alleged smuggling of weapon's grade enriched plutonium from erstwhile Soviet Union to Pakistan posing a serious threat not only to the country but the whole world; and

(b) What are the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have brought to the notice of foreign countries inculding Russia that Pakistan is sustaining a weapons-oriented nuclear programme through clandestine acquisition of material and technology from abroad.

There is a greater awareness internationally regarding Pakistan's clandestine programme in this sphere. The Russian Government have also conveyed to us its principled position that Russia is strongly apposed to the proliferation of nuclear material and that Russia would be endeavouring to improve upon its existitng system of providing security for nuclear material.

Russia favours India in Peace-keeping Opesations CIS

35. SHR V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia is in favour of India's participation in peacekeeping operations in the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and backs India for a permanent Membership of the UN Security Council; and

(b) if so, the reaction of government and steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Russia has indicated that it welcomes India's participation in the UN peace-keeping forces in the Commonweath of Independent States. It has also indicated its support for India's candidature for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

(b) India has informed the United Nations that it is willing to provide observers for the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNIMOG). At the onging 49th United Nations General Assembly, India has formally announced, in its speech in the general debate that it believes that, under any objective criteria, India is qualified to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Meeting of MICR representatives

36. V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives from Switzerland, Australia, U.K. and the U.S.A. representing Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) met recently in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details about the conclusions reached at this meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An MTCR Quad team consisting of the representatitves of Switzerland, U.S., U.K. and Australia visited India on 30 August, 1994 for discussions. The exchange of views was useful and enabled both sides to obtain a better understanding of each other's positions. A copy of the press statement issued after the discussion is given as Statement.

STATEMENT

SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT

Over the last few years, the MTCR has started to hold consultations with other countries with an advanced scientific and industrial base. Early this year, it expressed an interest in holding discussions with the Government of India, with a view to briefing us about the nature of the regime.

Government agreed to the visit. The MTCR is represented by a Quad, led by the current Chairman, Ambassador Rolf Jekar of Switzerland, other members are from US, UK and Australia, the Indian delegation was led by Shri Deb Mukherji, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and included senior officials from a number of concerned Departments.

This is part of consultations that Government holds with other Governments and organisations on matters of mutual interest. There was an exchange of views. It was not the intention to reach agreements or negotiate any understandings.

This first exchange of views has been both useful and comprehensive. Government of India will consider further discussions with the MTCR if the need arises.

NEW DELHI;
August 30, 1994.

Compensation to India soldiers andn doctors died in UN peace keeping operations in Somaia

37. SHRI GOVIND RAO ADIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of compensation being paid to the families of Indian soldiers and Doctors who died on peace keeping duties in Somalia;